



# LEGISLATIVE UPDATE 1/18/2019

West Virginia School Service Personnel Association

## An Important Message from WVSSPA

We are hearing a very strong rumor that the Senate has an omnibus bill in the hopper that will have the 5% pay increase, 150 million PEIA funding, Charter Schools, ESA Accounts, school voucher program, the repeal of seniority and paycheck protection. This bill would be all inclusive. The Governor has stated "We must make education our centerpiece." We couldn't agree more. We must invest in education not defund education. The creation of charter schools and ESA accounts is just simply a method to defund public education and will be a huge burden upon the county school systems. Paycheck protection would silence those who fight for better public education by defunding the labor organizations and unions.

It is unfair to introduce legislation that ties both good and bad in it to try to push it down the throats of the citizens of WV. We have been all around this state and we are very approachable. In saying that, I have never been approached by any citizen of this state and told "hey, we need charter schools." The only people that we have heard that from is Legislative Leadership and the charter school association leaders from out of state. This type of legislation would force our friends in the legislature to vote NO on the pay increase and important PEIA funding. It is also the position of WVSSPA that this type of bill would be against the West Virginia Constitution. We must urge our legislators to not allow an omnibus bill to be introduced.

Hundreds of Bills have been introduced in the first 10 days of the 2019 Legislative Session. Below are the pieces of legislation we are watching closely.



### Good Legislation to watch

**HB 2022-Permitting county boards of education to accumulate instructional days and use them when needed**

**HB 2037-Creating an additional class of special education classroom aides**

**HB 2104-Increasing benefits of retirees state personnel and teachers**

**HB 2128-Allowing state employees to take paid leave to attend parent-teacher conferences**

**HB 2130-Establishing seniority rights for public employees**

**HB 2392-Fixing the premium cost sharing at no less than 80% for the employee and no more than 20% for the employee**

This was a recommendation from the PEIA Task Force. This would lower the amount of premium paid by employees.

**HB 2428-Creating a state administered wholesale drug importation program**

This is a bipartisan bill that would lower the cost of prescription drugs in West Virginia.

### Bad Legislation to watch

**SB 7- Relating to public school transfer and enrollment policies**

Essentially allows any student to attend any school. This would also require transportation out of District/county.

**HB 2002-Education Savings Account**

Takes funding from public education.

**HB 2379-Relating to the limitations on the use of wages and agency shop fees by employers and labor organization for political activities**

The House Leadership is trying to silence you. This bill would bankrupt unions making them re-sign every member every year.

**HB 2425-Defining a work day for school service personnel and removing a provision relating to employment of LPNs**

This would make service personnel work longer days with no more pay. Additionally, this bill would allow a county board to RIF any employee to hire an LPN.

**Join us on Facebook Live Tuesday, January 22, 2019 @ 5:30 for more info on the 2019 session.**

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#### Text Alerts

Throughout the session, WVSSPA will call on members to take action in order to uphold and protect §18-A privileges for service personnel.

Text "Join" to 304-224-2827

\* Standard text messaging and data rates may apply